

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02434 010906Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05
INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02
USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /102 W
-----074017 011806Z /14

R 311743Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5298
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PO
SUBJECT: THE EUROPEAN OPTION STANDS FIRM
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02434 010906Z

REF: (A) LISBON 1273 (DTG 171922Z FEB 78) (NOTAL)
(B) LISBON 2058 (DTG 210836Z MAR 78) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SA MACHADO HAS PUBLICLY
REAFFIRMED THE BASIC LINES OF PS/CDS FOREIGN POLICY WITH
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PORTUGAL'S EUROPEAN OPTION.

HE ALSO ENDORSED SPAIN'S FULLER PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS (READ NATO). END SUMMARY.

1. EUROPEAN OPTION REMAINS FIRM: IN A MARCH 28 INTERVIEW, FOREIGN MINISTER VITOR DE SA MACHADO (CDS) REAFFIRMED THE PS/CDS FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM AND EMPHASIZED THE COMMITMENT TO EC MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN NATO.

HIGHLIGHTS:

-- PORTUGAL AND EUROPE: THE EUROPEAN OPTION REFLECTS THE COMMITMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE TO DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM BASED ON A DEEP SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY AND EUROPEAN, CHRISTIAN ROOTS;

-- THE EC: THE EC COUNCIL SHOULD GIVE ITS OPINION ON THE PORTUGUESE APPLICATION IN EARLY MAY. FINAL ENTRANCE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN BY EARLY 1979. PORTUGAL ANTICIPATES A DIFFICULT FINAL NEGOTIATION PHASE PARTICULARLY ON AGRICULTURAL ISSUES. (PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO THE EC ANTONIO DE SEQUEIRA FREIRE TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 29 THAT PORTUGAL ANTICIPATES AN INITIAL FIVE-YEAR PERIOD TO ADAPT TO EC CUSTOMS CONVENTIONS FOLLOWED BY A TEN-YEAR GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRANSITION PERIOD.);

-- SPAIN AND NATO: PORTUGAL IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT ANY INITIATIVE WHICH FOSTERS INCREASED SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS;

-- FORMER COLONIES: RELATIONS WITH THE FORMER COLONIES MUST BE BASED ON "SCRUPULOUS RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY" AND AVOID RECOLONIZATION TENDENCIES AND ANY "ABSURD SENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 02434 010906Z

OF COLLECTIVE GUILT." THE MINISTER DID NOT MENTION SPECIFIC STEPS OR PLANS TO FURTHER SUCH RELATIONS;

-- THE CHINA CONNECTION: THE GOP WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, A COUNTRY "WHICH HAS SO DILIGENTLY CONDEMNED IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM AND WHOSE WISDOM CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MOST SOLID GUARANTEES OF WORLD PEACE." (TWO NCNA CORRESPONDENTS WERE OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED TO LISBON MARCH 21.);

-- ODDS AND ENDS: THE MINISTRY PLAYS A "SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF AND EC. A FIRMER POLICY IN SUPPORT OF PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS WILL BE PURSUED BILATERALLY AND THROUGH THE ILO AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

2. COMMENT: OFFICIAL GOP SUPPORT FOR INCREASED SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN EUROPE (READ NATO) IS WELCOME IN LIGHT OF CONCERN IN SOME CIRCLES HERE THAT SPAIN IN NATO MIGHT DILUTE PORTUGAL'S IBERIAN SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE (REF B). BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, ALLIANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON02434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0596
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978034/aaaaacxw.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a978c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LISBON 1273, 78 LISBON 2058
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3246322
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE EUROPEAN OPTION STANDS FIRM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MARR, PO, SP, NATO
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a978c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014